



Quick Reference Guideline to the Town of Harpswell  
Shellfish Ordinance for April 2013 - March 2014  
Shellfish Licenses

- Each person must obtain a license from the Town Clerk's Office and the license must be on the person while digging
- Minimum clam size requirement: **2 inch**
- Minimum quahog size requirement: **1 inch (hinge width)**
- Maximum amount of shellfish:** The license entitles the holder to dig, take and possess no more than one peck of soft-shell clams or one peck of quahogs or one peck of a combination of soft-shell clams and quahogs per day for personal use.

*False information on a license application is a violation*

*Applicants must notify Town Clerk of any address change within 10 days*

*1 Pecks = 1/4 Bushel = 2 Gallons = 8 Quarts*

Clam-flats and coves may be closed for the taking/possessing of shellfish periodically for any of the following reasons:

**CLOSURE:**

**Pollution:** Contaminated due to animal or human fecal coliform bacteria.

**Conservation:** Due to efforts to replenish or re-seed an area.

**Red Tide:** Dangerous paralytic shellfish poison caused by algae that contains this toxin. Toxins affect humans by paralyzing the central nervous system, and, in high doses can cause death.

**Rainfall:** Due to a substantial amount of rainfall received.

**Seasonal:** Regulated by marine resource committee and D.M.R.

- Refer to shellfish ordinance for rules and regulations.

*Shellfish sanitation hotline = 1-800-232-4733*

*Cumberland County Sheriff's Office = 1-800-501-1111*

*Town Clerk's Office = 833-5822 or 833-5771*

*[www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/public\\_health/closures/closedarea.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/public_health/closures/closedarea.htm)*

The shores and islands of the Town of Harpswell are patrolled by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department irregularly and without notice. Violation of the shellfish ordinance is a crime. *Violators may be arrested*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION**